

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04

USIA-06 SAM-01 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00

ACDA-07 FEA-01 PA-01 PRS-01 IO-13 AGR-05 /141 W

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R 191721Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1219

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

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DEPARTMENT PASS COMMERCE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, ETRD, TH, GW

SUBJECT: THAI INDUSTRY MINISTER VISITS FRG JULY 20-23

REF: BANGKOK 23104

1. FRG OFFICIALS AND FEDERATION OF GERMAN INDUSTRIES
(BDI) TELL US THAT GOT MININDUSTRY CHATCHAI VISITED
WEST GERMANY JULY 20-23 SEEKING TO ATTRACT PRIVATE
INVESTMENT TO ENABLE THAILAND TO DEVELOP INDUSTRIES IN
RAW MATERIALS, AGRICULTURE, ARTIFICIAL FERTILIZER,
AND STEEL. BDI ARRANGED FOR CHATCHAI TO TOUR NUMBER
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OF WEST GERMAN PLANTS, INCLUDING HAMBURGER STAHLWERKE,

AND HOECHST CHEMICAL. CHATCHAI DID DISCUSS
STEEL MILL PROJECT WITH KRUPP AND THYSSEN (PARA 3 REF),
BUT WE DO NOT KNOW HOW MUCH "INTEREST" COMPANIES SHOWED
IN IDEA. HE ALSO MET WITH GERMAN BANK OFFICIALS AND
VISITED THAI TRADE AND INVESTMENT CENTER IN FRANKFURT.

2. THROUGHOUT, CHATCHAI TRIED TO PERSUADE HIS HOSTS
THAT THAILAND IS POLITICALLY STABLE AND THAT GOT IS
DETERMINED TO FOSTER PRIVATE SECTOR ACTIVITIES. HE
SAID GOT WILL NEITHER NATIONALIZE PRIVATE FIRMS NOR
SET UP STATE COMPANIES TO COMPETE WITH THEM. HE ADDED
THAT GOT WILL WORK TO IMPROVE CLIMATE FOR DIRECT
FOREIGN INVESTMENT BY REVISING ITS ALIEN BUSINESS LAW,
CURRENT PRICE CONTROLS, AND CUSTOMS PROCEDURES.
CHATCHAI ALSO SAID THAT GOT WILL OPEN TENDERS ON NEW
PROJECTS IN OCTOBER.

3. OUR CONTACTS CONFIRMED THAT, WHILE IN WEST GERMANY,
CHATCHAI SIGNED NO CONTRACTS AND RECEIVED NO COMMIT-
MENTS. THEY EXPLAINED THAT WEST GERMAN FIRMS HAVE,
AT BEST, A LIMITED INTEREST IN THAILAND DUE TO POLITICAL
UNCERTAINTIES. APPARENTLY, CHATCHAI DID LITTLE TO
ALLAY SUCH CONCERN, DESPITE HIS REPORTED INSISTENCE
THAT THAILAND DOES NOT BELONG TO "DOMINO CLUB" AND THAT
WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. FORCES HAS RELAXED POLITICAL
TENSIONS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA GENERALLY.
HILLENBRAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION, MINISTERIAL VISITS, INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BONN13909
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760318-1347
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760840/aaaabicu.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BANGKOK 23104
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 APR 2004 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <03 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THAI INDUSTRY MINISTER VISITS FRG JULY 20-23
TAGS: EGEN, ETRD, OVIP, TH, GE, (CHATCHAI CHUNKAWAN)
To: STATE BANGKOK
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006